

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method for preparing for intraductal retrieval of fluid, cells and/or other material from a breast duct of a patient, comprising:

administering intraductally to the patient an agent that increases the secretion of ductal fluid into a breast duct, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a hypotonic solution, a buffered solution, a nonabsorbable biocompatible solution, a protein, a colloid, a sugar, a polymer, mannitol, sorbitol, glucose, glycerol, sucrose, raffinose, fructose, lactulose, polyethyleneglycol (PEG), maltodextrin, dextran, dextran 70, hydroxyethyl starch, fluid gelatin, a synthetic colloid, an antibody, a binding protein, albumin, a hormone, a natural herb, an extract from a natural herb, silymarin, a surfactant, a growth factor, oxytocin, prolactin, an organic molecule, a muscle relaxant, and a ductal orifice dilator.

Claims 2-5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method as in claim 1, wherein the agent is in a state selected from the group consisting of a non-liquid, a gel, an emulsion, a gas and a semi-solid.

Claims 7-21 (cancelled)

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the agent is a nonabsorbable

biocompatible solution.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of mannitol and sorbitol.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a sugar, glucose, sucrose, raffinose, fructose, and lactulose.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of polyethyleneglycol (PEG), maltodextrin, dextran, and dextran 70.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is an extract from a natural herb.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a growth factor, oxytocin, and prolactin.

Claims 28-33 (canceled)